



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Sensenbrenner Highlights PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #14

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) today highlighted the fourteenth of the dozens of civil liberties safeguards included in the PATRIOT Act conference report approved last month by a bipartisan majority of the House and pending before the U.S. Senate.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #14 – Requiring the Justice Department’s Independent Inspector General to Conduct Two Audits of the Use of National Security Letters (NSLs):

The PATRIOT Act conference report provides additional public information and congressional oversight by requiring the Justice Department’s independent Inspector General to conduct two audits on the use of NSLs during the years 2003 - 2006. These audits will be compiled into two Inspector General public reports with classified annexes. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

Originally created by a Democrat-led Congress and signed into law by President Carter, NSLs are a long-standing tool by which the FBI and other appropriate federal law enforcement officials request, for sensitive foreign spying or international terrorism investigations, subscriber information and toll billing records of a wire or electronic communication service provider, such as a phone company or AOL.

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